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ABSTRACT

El Centro de la Causa and the Chicago Public Library cooperated in a program to serve Chicago's Spanish speaking population. The project assessed needs and designed programs to meet those needs by establishing a library in El Centro's community center and some outreach programs. An active acquisitions program for Spanish language materials was developed. In the second year the two organizations expanded their activities to include an education component, a research component, services to seniors and to other community organizations, and publication of a bilingual news bulletin and calendar. As a result of a project evaluation, recommendations were made to establish more libraries in public meeting places, to develop new services for special populations, and to reorganize library services to serve the public more fully. (LS)

THE CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Narrative Report
of the
El Centro de la Causa Library Project
1973-1975

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

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Walter VI. Grantham

Director-RESPOND

Prepared by

Patrick V. Italia Librarian: El Centro

de la Causa

November 22, 1975

R 003 787

A. Rudd



DEPAREMENT OF HEALTH, EDITING ON AND WELFARE

OFFICE OF EDUCATION WASHINGFORD C 20262

€€7, 2 , 1975

October 14, 1975

Mr. David L. Reich Chief Librarian The Chicago Public Library 76 East Washington Street Chicago, Illinois 60602

Subject: Grant No. OEG-0-73-0843

Dear Mr. Reich:

Reference is made to the subject grant and to your letter dated September 25, 1975, requesting a no-cost extension to your grant to December 31, 1975.

As explained to your Business Manager, Mr. Joseph Furman, during our telecon on September 29th, 1975 the reasons given in the above mentioned letter for your request, namely that sufficient funds remain in the subject grant to continue your project until December 31, 1975 is not in itself a valid reason to consider extending the above grant.

The purpose of awarding a grant by the Government is not to empend all monies made available by such a grant, but rather to accomplish certain tasks as outlined in the grant instrument in a timely fashion.

As you are aware your grant was already extended once through September 30, 1975 from its original expiration date of June 30, 1975. To allow further extension to insure expenditure of excess funds under your grant would be tantamount to obviating the purpose of the grant as originally intended.

Please submit a final technical report as well as a fiscal report at your earliest convenience, but no later than 60 days hercof as specified in the grant document.

Sincerely yours,

Albert Rickin, Chief

Grants & Procurement Management Division

Postsecondary Education Branch

THE CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

November 28, 1975

Albert Riskin, Chief Grants & Procurement Management Division Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Office of Education Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Mr. Riskin:

We have enclosed a fiscal and technical report for grant No. OEG-0-73-0843 as requested in your letter of October 14, 1975.

٥

Sincerely yours

Walter L. Grantham, Director

RESPOND

The Chicago Public Library

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this evaluation is to: serve as a narrative report, aid in planning for future similar projects. To accomplish this, this paper will review the past two years of library service to the Spanish Speaking through. El Centro de la Causa Library Project.

This evaluation will compare the activities of the project with the objectives as stated in the project proposal. The period covered, August 1973 thru September 1975, coincides with the Federal and State funding period for the project. Original documents and first hand experience (since February 10, 1975) were used to prepare this report. All attempts have been made to be objective.

Objectives

The general objectives of the project as stated in the proposal are: to provide ongoing library services through an existing community organization as an alternative to traditional library service for the purpose of reaching a previously unserved population with special linguistic and cultural needs, assisting in determining and meeting the informational needs of that population as an experimental cooperative effort between the Chicago Public Library and El Centro de la Causa.

Evaluation Year I

The Chicago Public Library, after the first year of the project, viewed as the most innovative aspects of El Centro de la Causa Library Project, the exploration of



and an indigenous community organization as a means of providing alternative types of library service. By being invited to share facilities with an agency already providing la number of services, the library supported the existing programs of the center while developing programs and services of its own. Some of which were:

- a) Tutoring students in El Centro's Right to Read,

 GED and Chicano Mental Health Training Programs.
- b) Community seminars held in conjunction with the Right to Read staff.
- c) Folk dance classes with records and space provided by the library and instructions provided by one of El Centro's secretaries.
- d) Arts and crafts instruction in cooperation with the after school recreation program.
- e) A monthly news letter and calendar of events relevant to the community served as an effective outreach tool. The calendar included tidbits of information and history.
- f) Film program presented jointly with B.A.S.T.A.

 (a federally funded methadone drug rehabilitation program)
- g) Participation in El Centro's College Recruitment
 Day.
- h) Participation in El Centro's general staff meetings.

 Also developed during the first year of funding was
 the concept of the information and research component of the

library, which could begin to fill the gaps in information of concern to Latinos in the Midwest and help in the important process of community development. Various documents affecting either the Pilsen community and the larger Latino population in general, have been gathered in the Community Research and Information Center of the library during its second year of funding.

El Centro de la Causa Library Project has also had an ongoing impact on the Chicago Public Library. The past project director, Patricia Tarin, served as a focus for staff interested in service to the Spanish Speaking. Specifically, this impact has centered on developing systems for acquiring materials, a major need for El Centro as well as the branches.

The following occurred during the first year of funding:

- a) New local sources for materials were located and shared with the library.
- b) Buying procedures were liberalized to the point where the project director was allowed to initiate purchase orders.
- c) An increased number of popular and paperback

 Spanish titles appeared on the regular book

 order at the suggestion of the project director.
- d) The selection of Spanish language periodicals increased as a result of the inclusion of El Centro's periodical list in the regular periodical order.
- e) Various librarians within the system consulted
 - the project director for specific information



regarding Latino Bibliographies, resources, language, customs, etc. This information was exchanged freely whenever possible.

- f) An administrative commitment was made to have forms and brochures used in branches and the Central Library translated and printed in Spanish. This had taken place during the second year of funding.
- g) The project director has informally joined the staff Advisory Council's Committee on Services to the Spanish Speaking which planned and implemented (during the second year) a series of workshops to familiarize librarians in target branches with their community and its special needs and problems, and to develop strategies for better library service to Latinos.
- h) The project directors participation in local, regional, and national conferences specifically geared toward the Spanish Speaking enabled her to collect and make available materials which would not otherwise have come to the notice of branch librarians.
- Branch Library and El Centro de la Causa developed because of the mutual service orientation and the concorn for the community. Their cooperation and lack of territorial feelings served as a model for their special projects

and other branches within the CPL system.

Second Year of Funding

The previous occurrences which had an ongoing impact on the Chicago Public Library were either continued or expanded. A new project director, librarian, and research specialist were hired during the second year of funding.

The collection more than doubled, expanded greatly in its previously weak subject areas and now has more than 5,000 items in the Spanish language.

The second year of the project contains a more detailed explanation of the library's activities because of (a) first hand experience and (b) a peed to exemplify how the library is an integral part of El Centro de la Causa, a multi-service community center.

Outline of the Library's Integrated Service Within a Community Multi-Service Social Center

- I. Education Component
 - A. GED Jackson Adult Educational Center
 Board of Education of Chicago
 - B. Right to Read program of evening classes
 - C. Chicano Mental Health training program
 - D. Prison Program
 - E. Project Quetzalocatl College Recruitment Program
- II. Research Component
 - A. Computer and Neighborhood Information Center
 - B. Research forwarded upon request across the country '.
 - C. Proposal Writing



- D. Community Research and Information Center
 - A. Senior Citizens
 - 1. St. Pius Senior Citizens Nutrition
 Program
 - 2. Casa de las Americas Senior Citizens
 Housing Project

IV.

- B. Service to other community organizations
 - 1. Centro de Cultura Popular
 - 2. Casa Aztlan
 - 3. Mujeres Latinas en Accion
 - 4. Pilsen Mental Health Center
 - 5. Latino Youth Drug Intervention Program
 - 6. B.A.S.T.A.
 - . 7. Halsted Urban Progress Center
 - 8. M.A.C.E.
 - 9. El Hogan del Nino
 - 10. Providence of God Church and School
 - 11. M.A.R.C.H. artist group
- V. Monthly bilingual News Bulletin and Calendar
 The Educational Component of El Centro de la Causa
 Community Center is directed by Phil Ayala, the library is considered part of this program.
- A. The GED Program is an extension of the Jackson Adult Education Center of the Chicago Board of Education.

 The head teacher is Mr. Robert Dodge. The program is open to all adults seventeen years and older who wish to learn or improve their English and take classes in basic and GED.

level. Planning has been implementled to offer GED in Spanish. Approximately 80 students are now in full time attendence.

The library serves as a resource of materials for the teachers of these classes. For example, when teaching the use of the dictionaries. Also offered are supplimentary educational as well as recreational, informational, and cultural materials.

The library is developing a bilingual presentation of "What's in the Library For You" to be given to each class. This presentation will be documented on video-tape so any person or group may find out more about the library and staff.

B. Right to Read Program. Humberto Perez is the program coordinator and head teacher. The purpose of the program is primarily to fight illiteracy in any language; help community people to function effectively in the English language. There are about 90 students registered for the program composed mainly of Mexicans who came to the heighborhood recently.

Saturday, the coordinator uses the video recorder to help educators in other Right to Read programs to improve their teaching abilities.

The library has been able to supplement the program with films, both educational and recreational. El Centro Library planned with the program a Community Information Fair whose purpose was to inform all the people who use El Centro's facilities about community, social, medical and other services available to them.

The librarian who has taught English as a second language in the Armed Forces, spent some time with the classes. The reason for this was to let the students hear a different voice. One teacher had discovered, after playing a record for his class, that the students could understand his spoken English but when they listened to a recording or another person, they could not understand them. The librarian's experience has enabled the class to get used to a different person's voice while continuing their studies.

C. The Chicano Mental Health Training Program, directed by Phil Ayala, trains Letinos, who are sensitive and resourceful, to become mental health practitioners serving to help relieve the anxieties and problems of Raza people. the overall goal of the program is to develop a self-sustaining manpower development training and utilization system that meets the para-professional personnel needs of local mental health agencies, and to institutionalize this program to insure its continuity. The educational aspect of the program is designed to add to the knowledge of the interns as well as to build upon their already developed skills. The program provides accredited college level course work leading toward an AA degree. This is the only accredited mental health, training program in the nation which is housed in a community center. Program curriculum accredited through the Chicago city colleges include: English, Humanities, Psychology, Social Sciences and Physical Science. Dr. John Hobgood, faculty member in the program, who is an

anthropologist specializing in Latin American countries, has been invaluable in locating and suggesting titles in subject areas for library acquisition.

Some of the services El Centro Library offered to the program have been films on Latin America--chosen to supplement the program in the area of cultural awareness. The library has also supplied supplementary reading material to the required texts for term papers and class discussion. Faculty and staff of the Chicano Mental Health Training Program make continuous and extensive use of the Community Research and Information Center in the library for demographic data for their ongoing research on service delivery in mental health for Latinos and in their academic courses.

D. Prison Program: Education, parole planning and job finding for the Latino inmates of Pontiac State Prison and counseling of the ex-offender on the outside, are part of the services that this program offers. The library has been able to supply educational and recreational reading materials in Spanish, by donating discards and past issues of periodicals to the library at Pontiac and by sharing material resources with the librarian there.

The library also provides for long term loans of more recent material for workers and volunteers of the program to bring to the inmates. Two of the library staff members have worked with Chicano prisoners, instructing them in creative writing, film making and photography. A series of video tape interviews with some of the inmates have made some gang members of this neighborhood think twice before getting



into trouble.

E. Project Quetzalcoatl: This college recruitment program is aimed at high school seniors and drop-outs. The purpose of the program is to recruit students for college and vocational school and it offers assistance in filling out admission and financial aid forms, coordinating college fair days, and college visits, and identifying sources of financial aid. The library has obtained college catalogs, vocational materials, employment projections and opportunities, information about scholarship availability and educational films for the students using the service.

II. Research Component

Computer and Neighborhood Information: El Centro de la Causa Community Center gained access to computer time at the University of Illinois Chicago Circle Campus. computer has been used to do in-depth studies of the Pilsen and Little Village neighborhoods. One such study had been very helpful to the library in defining needs and interests of students at the local high school. All of these computer printouts are original studies which are not available elsewhere in any form. This information has been compiled for the different programs at the community center in order to demonstrate the need for overall governmental and private programs to serve the neighborhood and the Chicanos' in the nation. A separate census taken by El Centro de la Causa discovered a great discrepancy between the 1970 U.S. census count and its own. Partially, as a result of El Centro's study, the 1980 United States Census will read an "approximate number of Spanish surnamed" instead of "total."



- B. Research Forwarded on Request to Seekers across the Nation
- C. Proposal Writing: El Centro de la Causa is one of the earliest Latino service organizations, initiated by and for this community, to be federally funded. It is known by Chicano organizations throughout the nation and its proposals and programs have served as a model for these Chicano organizations.
- D. Community Research and Information Center, part of whose function is to catalog and make available El Centro's in-house publications, including its proposals and reports. Organizations desiring program ideas and direction have visited and used these materials or have requested them by mail. The library has even forwarded its own proposal to a student of library science in England after she had written the library for more information about the project. The library also provided information for establishing an adult education program in London to a visitor from England sent here to research United States Adult Education.

III. Youth Services

- A. Arts and Crafts: Arts and crafts classes have been offered at El Centro as part of the youth services since its inception. The program has been taught by various staff members, including library staff. The library also provided craft materials and books as well as sources to obtain free materials for the program. Story hours are sometimes planned on the same topic as the arts and craft classes program.
 - B. Summer Program: The library's summer program is



in conjunction with El Centro's summer program for children. The library assistant II has story hours and a book club. She also supervises on field trips which enables her to develop a better rapport with the children and to encourage better feelings towards all libraries.

- C. Training N.Y.C. and C.E.T.A. Workers: The library has held individual and group training programs for workers of these two national employment programs. These library training and information programs have enabled the two community agencies to implement their own small libraries and other workers to pass on to their Latino community, knowledge of what a library has to offer.
- D. <u>Dance Classes</u>: Dance classes are taught by two secretaries of El Centro. The children of the neighborhood are taught cultural and social dance to the music provided by the library's collection of records and cassette tapes and its equipment.
- E. Streetworkers Program: The program's purpose was to have people with expertise available 24 hours on call to deal with crisis situations of people in the community, especially the youth. Services and information included: legal defense, welfare, housing, abortions, and medical services, jobs, education, drug abuse, prison, immigration, etc. The library's Community and General Information file established a base for the program to acquire information and resources on the above community needs. The staff also made use of library materials to supplement training in community social work.

IV. The library also offers services and materials to senior citizens and community organizations.

A. Senior Citizens

- 1. St. Pius Senior Citizens Nutrition Program, in the basement of St. Pius Church, at 19th and Ashland Streets, enjoys a film program that the library presents each Monday for its approximately sixty participants. El Centro Library has been able to provide quality entertainment through rental film, as well as educational and informational films, from the Chicago Public Library's Special Extension Services and its Audio-Visual Materials Center.
- Public Housing Center, is located at 16th and Racine (about four blocks from the library). We have been able to provide a weekly Mexican Film series through rental, and establish the ground work to develop their own library through Special Extension Services of the Chicago Public Library. The library devoted approximately three weeks time in developing a series of video-tape interviews with some of the seniors who have long lived in the neighborhood. These video-tapes are available to see at the library by any person or group interested.



B. Servicento other Committy Organizations

- 1. Centro de Cultura Popular: A community and political awareness group had access to the library's films and services. The director of the library helped in plans to establish a deposit collection of Special Extension Services there, and also trained both CETA and NYC workers in library operations.
- 2. Casa Aztlan, at 1831 South Racine, is another multi-service social center in the Pilsen community and has long been offering similar types of programs as El Centro de la Causa. Casa Aztlan has used the services of the library extensively for writing proposals, bringing children over for story hours, reviving film programs, and training to set up their own library.
- English and GED classes, and tutors for young women in junior and senior high school. Courses are also available through Loop Community College Continuing Education Department. such as "Resources for Latinas in the City" and "Legal Aid for Latinas." Mujeres have their classes during the regular school year at El Centro de la Causa. They have availed themselves of nutrition and health films that El Centro Library has reserved



for them through the Chicago Public Library and Special Extension Services. Teachers and students have borrowed books to supplement class readings.

- 4. Pilsen Mental Health Center is a community service to out-patients. They brought small groups to the library so that the people in the program can view entertaining and educational films for a change in their regular. activities.
- its services to teens and young adults who are having drug problems. The library acts as a resource for educational and recreational film for its staff and teens.

 El Centro library has also shown Poly-Drug can obtain its own film borrowing agreement with the Chicago Public Library, but since El Centro's library rental films were of higher quality, they preferred to borrow them from the latter.
- Addiction) is a methadone program housed at the opposite end of El Centro de la Causa. Here the problem for the program participants is to keep busy enough to keep their minds away from wanting to get high. The movies and books offered to the patients, as well as books selected by the librarian for the staff, helped



- to alleviate some pain and sorrow.

 7. Halsted Urban Progress Center: The library

 has served as a resource for some staff in

 order to acquaint themselves with the neigh
 borhood. The library has also conducted

 training sessions in the use of the library

 for their summer NYC workers.
- 8. M.A.C.E.: The Mexican American Council on Education and El Centro Library have had a mutual working relationship for some time.

 M.A.C.E. has offered assistance in building the library collection to serve the needs of Mexican-Americans, Chicanos, and Mexicans.

 The library has trained their librarian in organization and acquisition of materials through a week long in-service session at El Centro.
- 9. El Hogar del Nino, a local day care center, has enjoyed the services that El Centro Library offers'including story hours and story hour training sessions. The library has also helped El Hogar establish their own deposit collection through Special Extension Services.
- 10. Providence of God is a Catholic Church and grammar school one block from El Centro de la Causa. The library and El Centro have had a favorable communion with Providence.

The library made presentation about library services and materials available at P.T.A. meetings. The Sisters at Providence have to come to the library for visits with their classes for resource materials, movies, and library presentations. The library's childrens services specialist conducted story hours at the school's Head Start programs If the library had a broken this summer. down projector or needed a take-up reel, Providence was the first place we turned to. priests at Providence provide some impact when it comes to selection of religious material. The library also makes a presentation to each classroom in both public and parochial schools. of the neighborhood. This year, before school recessed for the summer, library personnel visited about 80 classrooms.

- active in the community, has used the library as a weekly meeting place, and also our telephone number and address for their correspondence. These artists have been helpful in promoting the library and also securing contacts for displays at the library.
- V. Monthly Bi-lingual News Bulletin and Calendar
 The monthly Bilingual News Bulletin and Calendar provides
 the community and El Centro with a calendar of local, histori-

cal, and national events of interest to the neighborhood and community centers. The newsletter goes into detail about some of the events on the calendar as well as articles on the various programs at El Centro. Reviews of newly acquired library materials, special programs, etc. The newsletter has been received with positive responses from the community and is an invaluable tool, not only for public relations, but also for community news.

Staff development was increased during the second year of funding. The librarian gave training sessions in "Answering Reference Questions, Telephone Courtesy, Classification of Materials, Use of a Library, Developing the Resource Center and School Presentation." He attended the ALA Conference in San Francisco and made valuable contacts with other librarians concerned with services to the Spanish-Speaking and shared these resources with CPL staff.

The children's services specialist, Jessica Valencia, (the only person remaining who has been with the project from the beginning) received, through her efforts, continued training from staff of the Chicago Public Library.

A workshop on "Service & Materials to the Spanish-Speaking in your Neighborhood Library" was conducted by the library for CPL staff and interested parties.

The Selection Advisory Committee, composed of community people, proved difficult to have attend regular meetings. These are the same people called upon to act in advisory or director status for numerous other community organizations. This problem was overcome by informal meetings with many of them individually while working on other projects which both



the library and their organizations were involved. These committee meetings were also supplemented by regular meetings with directors of the various programs housed within El Centro de la Causa to determine community needs for service and materials.

Recommendations:

Lowell Martin has recommended to the Chicago Public Library to establish more libraries (such as El Centro's) in public meeting places and ALA's Strategy for Public Library Change: 'Proposed Public Library Goals-Feasibility Study, 1972, recommended (1) to develop new patterns of service to meet the needs of the disadvantaged, the handicapped, and the institutionalized, minorities and the aging (2) to reorganize public library service, recognizing that traditional organization by local governmental units is evidently inadequate, due to increasing costs of service, the growing quantity and complexity of information demanded, and the mobility of users of libraries. Taking these above studies into consideration, the Chicago Public Library may wish to look into the possibility of providing more of these types of small libraries. Economies could be realized: El Centro de la Causa does not charge for space, utilities, janitorial or maintenance supplies, equipment could be shared by a number of these small libraries within a geographical area, and staff does not have to be as large as that of El Centro's Library. Services by this library have required a personal touch, oftentimes people who have telephoned for reference service will speak only to

the souff person they are most familiar with, even though another staff member could just as easily have answered the question. Libraries such as El Centro's are good for personal touch, but continuous staff training would be necessary in order for patrons to benefit most from the services that a large urban library has to offer.

The director and assistant director of El Centro de la Causa have expressed their afterthoughts on the project. All wished that a closer dialogue would have been maintained through Special Extension Services with the administration of the Chicago Public Library.

Many members of the Technical Advisory Board, the Selection Advisory Committee, CPL and Centro staff and users, have commented upon the need of a large sign which would let the public know that there is a library in the building for their use. Efforts have been made by library personnel to acquire a sign but, to date, nothing has materialized.

Upon initiation of a special project, and anytime thereafter directorship changes, it is recommended that a formal training period for the director should take place, so that he knows what is expected and required as far as the paperwork by the Chicago Public Library System. The lack of this formal training, according to past documents and present conditions, posed some problems which could have been alleviated by formal training.

Conclusion:

El Cantro de la Causa Library has had the unique opportunity of working within, and as a viable integral part of El



Centro de la Causa, a nonprofit, multi-service agency in the Pilsen Community. If the library is considered a success, it must be said that the library and its personnel have benefitted from the knowledge and cooperation that the directors and staff of El Centro de la Causa possess. The community center is one of the oldest to be developed by grass roots community members in the Pilsen area, and its directors have been with it from the beginning. They are always available to offer suggestions and answer queries that years of experience enable them to provide.

The accomplishment of the project is also due in large to the supportive services of Special Extensions Services of the Chicago Public Library, the Technical Advisory Board, the Selection Advisory (see addendum) Committee, and numerous individual supporters.

Special Extension Services of the Chicago Public Library (now called RESPOND) proved to be most helpful in providing El Centro Library with assistance in the following areas:

- Selection, acquisition and processing of materials
- 2. Report writing
- 3. Typing skills
- 4. Delivering supplies and library materials
- 5. Training sessions in children's services, such as story hours and book club preparation
- 6. Film selection
- 7. Staff Procedures of the Chicago Public Library
- 8. Ideas for and implementation of programs
- 9. Evaluation



- 10. Workshops
- 11. Choosing the Technical Advisory Board
- 12. Community and Library Contacts
- 13. Implementation of, and continuous support of the library.

The Technical Advisory Committee composed of college, school and public librarians, worked with the Board of El Centro de la Causa and the Chicago Public Library to implement and advise the library project. This group's combined experience in service to the "underserved" could have been used more advantageously, they were usually asked to attend meetings to intervene in crisis situations. However, many called or sent in relevant information, helpful hints and suggestions for programing, materials, etc., these proved to be very beneficial.

The selection Advisory Committee, although difficult to draw together did offer useful suggestions for materials and programs of benefit to the community. Their advice was supportive with El Centro and other community organizations personnel on an informal basis.

The El Centro de la Causa Library staff has shown dedication, interest, and involvement in the problems of the community. They have been committed to the concept of outreach services, not only in the Pilsen area, but to Chicanos throughout Chicagoland and are to be commended for their efforts.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY BOARD

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SELECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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- 2) Trene Medina 2413 South Central Park Ave.
- 3) Luz Maria Prieto, Coordinator Chicano Mental Health Training Program 1459 West Taylor
- 4) Dionioes Sampson
 Boand of Education
 Chicago Public Schools
 1420 West 17th Street
- 5) Mary Tulley, Citizen 1908 South Halsted
- 6) Amelia Torres, Citizen 904 West 20th Place



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PHASE II--FEDERAL PORTION

,		BUDGET	EXPENDITURES ASOF 10/31/75
005 & 070	Salaries & Fringe	30,286.00	30,081.04
149	Evalu. 2,000 Dissens. 2,044 Professional Services	作*0所*00	- 0 -
245	Travel	2,000.00	538•35 ′
348	(Reference) Books & Related Mail	1,000.00	820.00
350	Office Supplies	500.00	⊶ 0 ⊷
	,	37,830.00	. 31,439.39

